

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION

This division was originally called the Building and Maintenance Division, which seems to have been implemented in the early 1940s. In 1937, the Missouri Legislature gave the Patrol approval to construct six new troop headquarters buildings. By 1938, the identically built troops were completed and placed into operation. Prior to this time, the troops were located within Highway Department buildings. In 1946, the troops were realigned, and two new troops were added. The new troops were Troop G, Willow Springs, and Troop H, St. Joseph. In 1948, the new Troop D Headquarters building was completed in Springfield.

In 1953, a new storage building and radio repair facility was constructed at Troop F in Jefferson City. In 1961, \$465,000 was allocated for a new General Headquarters facility in Jefferson City. This included the purchase of 39 acres of land by then-superintendent, Colonel Hugh H. Waggoner. Employees moved into the new General Headquarters building on October 24, 1963. In April 1966, the General Headquarters building was named the Hugh Waggoner building in honor of the late superintendent. A south wing addition was added to this building in 1972.

In 1964, a new Troop B Headquarters building was constructed in Macon. The official open house for this facility was held on December 20, 1964.

The year 1967 brought many new construction projects for the Patrol. The new Troop C Headquarters in Kirkwood was completed, as well as the addition to Troop I Headquarters in Rolla. Also, a new Supply building was added at the General Headquarters complex. Last, construction began for a new Troop A Headquarters in Lee's Summit, which was completed in October 1969.

In 1968, plans were implemented to add a new Highway Patrol Law Enforcement Academy to be located on the General Headquarters Complex. The Academy included three buildings. An administration building included five classrooms, a legal library, a photography laboratory, and a cafeteria. The dormitory was constructed to house 124 people. The physical training facility included a firing range, training tank/sauna, and a gymnasium, all of which was completed in 1971.

In 1970, Lieutenant Joe Cassady was transferred to the Building and Maintenance Division as the director. He was promoted to captain in early 1981. He remained in this assignment until his retirement in 1983.

Satellite facilities in both Sikeston and Carthage were opened in 1973. Plans for a new facility for Troop G Headquarters were started in the latter part of the year. Construction for this facility was complete in 1975. Governor Bond dedicated the building on May 1.

Construction of a new headquarters building for Troop E, Poplar Bluff, began early January 1974.

In 1977, a new Troop D Headquarters, Springfield, was completed. Two years later, a new Troop H Headquarters was completed and ready for occupants to move in by late April.

Troop F Headquarters was completed at its current location two miles east of Jefferson City on U.S. 50. Soon thereafter, the Garage and Radio Shop facilities located directly behind the new Troop F facility were completed.

The National Guard was instrumental in grading land for the Patrol's Emergency Vehicle Operation Course in 1988. Construction was completed in 1990.

In 1997, a new laboratory was constructed on the grounds of the Troop G Headquarters in Willow Springs. In addition, construction began at the new Troop A Supersite north of the headquarters facility. The Supersite includes a full-service driver examination office to offer all written, vision, and sign tests, along with the motorcycle skills, and commercial driver's license skills and road tests.

A new laboratory was constructed in Park Hills as a part of the Troop C Headquarters. It was completed in 1999.

A new CDL site was completed in Strafford in the fall 2005, which provides a new facility for CDL testing within the Troop D Headquarters area.

Upon the retirement of Captain Cassady in 1983, Captain Al Lubker became the director of the Division where he remained until his retirement in 1988. At that time, Lieutenant Paul Loutzenhiser became the division director. He was promoted to captain in early 1994. Unfortunately, he died in September 1996. While serving as director of the division, Captain Paul Loutzenhiser had under his command both the Motor Equipment Division and what is now called the Construction & Maintenance Division. Upon his death in 1996, the divisions split into two separate divisions in late 1996. The new division director for the Construction and Maintenance Division became Mr. Larry J. Block. Mr. Block continues to serve in this capacity.

Responsibilities of the division today include oversight of all maintenance and repair projects statewide as well as development of the biennial capital improvement budget submitted for legislative approval. In addition, the division has an electrician, a carpenter, plant maintenance engineers, a painter and maintenance personnel who are responsible for cleaning and light maintenance repairs within the facilities.

The Construction & Maintenance Division handles many assignments, including construction of furniture for staff offices, display cases for the museum, and various miscellaneous carpentry projects statewide. The division is responsible also for maintaining all plant maintenance equipment statewide. During outages, personnel from this division respond accordingly in an effort to keep facilities comfortable and operational for building occupants.

The Construction & Maintenance Division continues to oversee many capital improvement projects statewide, a number of projects designed internally, and other projects necessary for an ever-growing demand on facilities. The total square footage of all Patrol facilities has continued to grow, along with the age of all of the facilities. This division is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of 451,674 square feet of space and 193 acres of land. Increases in personnel, equipment, and programs within each of the troops continue to be a challenge for this division as it relates to proper maintenance and upkeep, which is necessary for comfort of building occupants.

In the mid-90s, federal legislation was passed establishing stringent guidelines affecting Americans with disabilities. This legislation is known as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). With this wide-ranging legislation, the MSHP modified Patrol facilities to better accommodate those individuals with special needs. For example: Modifications were made to building entrances and restrooms, so all are accessible to people in wheelchairs or who cannot negotiate stairs for other reasons. Handicap parking close to Patrol buildings was designated, also.

From a security standpoint, the Construction & Maintenance Division has been responsible for installation of proximity card readers at building entrances with magnetic locks installed on exterior doors. This has been in response to the events of September 11, 2001, as well as other concerns for potential security breaches. In addition, the Construction & Maintenance Division has assisted in the effort to install security cameras at each of the troops and GHQ. These efforts already have proven beneficial to overall security.